Report of expert committee on new food policy

3866. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expert committee on new food policy has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the terms of reference of the committee; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when it is expected to submit the final report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. The High Level Committee (HLC) to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, has not submitted its final report so far.

(b) The Terms of Reference of the HLC are as follow:—

I. Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and Price Support Operations.

Review of current MSP including—

(a) Difference, if any, between MSP and procurement price.

(b) Inter-crop parities.

(c) Grade and quality specification.

(d) Possibility of decentralizing price support operation—broad based procurement operations.

(e) Encouraging private trade to play an increasingly significant role in MSP/procurement operations.

II. FCI related issues.

(a) Economic cost and scope for reduction.

(b) Possibility of contracting out certain operations *e.g.* bulk handling etc.

(c) Encouraging private investment in handling, storage and distribution.

III. Functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS).

(a) Functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and comparison with situation before.

(b) Functioning and viability of Fair Price Shops.

IV. Grain Policy regarding Buffer Stocks, open market intervention, export/import policies.

V. Allocation of foodgrains for Rural Development Programmes and other Welfare Programmes.

(c) The HLC has held 19 sittings so far and has interacted with the Chief Ministers and Food Ministers of various States. The HLC has also held detailed meetings with the Administrative Staff College of India and Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai. The HLC is expected to submit its final report in the month of May 2002.

Final report on New Food Policy

3867. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the final report of the Expert Committee on New Food Policy;

(b) if so, whether the Committee had also submitted an interim report;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to implement the recommendations made in the interim report;

(d) if so, what are the main recommendations made in the final report; and

(e) how many of them have been considered and implemented, so far?